GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6771
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
EXCHANGE OF CULTURAL DELEGATIONS
VIJAY GOEL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been any exchange of cultural delegations with our neighbouring countries, viz., Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, etc., during 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, there have been exchanges with our neighbouring countries during 1999. The relevant information for outgoing and incoming cultural delegations is included in the attached statement.

(c) Due to the continuing civil strife in Afghanistan, it is not possible to have any exchange of cultural delegations with Afghanistan.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6771 FOR ANSWER ON 10, 2000 REGARDING EXCHANGE OF CULTURAL DELEGATIONS

Sri Lanka

Visits from Sri Lanka

1. Visit of a music duo [February 1999]

2. Visit of Mr. Sanarh Gunatilake and Mr. Prasanna Vithanage (Film Director) [September 1999]

3. Visit of Dr. Deepika Udagama, Director, Centre for Studies for Human Rights, Colombo University [November 1999]

4. A 13-member Western Province State Dance Ensemble [November-December 1999]

Visits from India

1. A 4-member Music Group led by Ms. Rekha Surya [February 1999]

2. A 14-member Margi Kathakali dance troupe [March 1999]

3. Visit of Shri Pulak Dutta, eminent artiste from Shantiniketan [April 1999]

4. A 5-member Kathak dance troupe led by Ms. Nandini Singh [July 1999]

5. Visit of Ms. Sejal Kshirsagar, artiste from Mumbai [July 1999] 6. Visit of V. Balu, Painter and an exhibition of his works [August 1999]

7 Visit of Ms. Kavita, Ms. Triveni Saralaya (Vocal) and six others [October-November 1999]

8. Visit of 8-member dance/music group led by Ms. Meenakshi Chittaranjan, Bharatanatyam dancer and Saralaya sisters, Carnatic vocalists [October 1999]

Nepal

Visits from Nepal

1. A 6-member vocal recital troupe led by Shri Anand Karki [November-December 1999]

Visits from India

1. A 6-member Bharatanatyam troupe led by Ms. Pratibha Prahlad [February 1999]

2. A 6-member Bharatanatyam troupe led by Ms. Alarmel Valli [February 1999]

3. Visit of Shri Bhani Bharati and others from National School of Drama (NSD) in connection with production of Nepalese adaptation of Hindi Play `Andha Yug` [January-February 1999]

4. A 3-member literary delegation composing Shri Kailash Vajpayee, Shri Kedar Nath Singh and Mrs. Gagan Gill [March 1999]

5. A 6-member vocal recital troupe led by Pandit Jasraj [August 1999] 6. A 6-member Bharatanatyam troupe led by Ms. Malvika Surukkai [September 1999]

7 A 6-member Kathak Dance troupe led by Ms. Shovana Narayan [October 1999]

Pakistan

Visits from Pakistan

1. Visit of Rafi Peer Puppet Group to participate in the Calcutta Puppet Festival [December 1998/January 1999]

Visit from India

Nil.

Bhutan

Visits from Bhutan

1. A 10-member delegation from the World Peace Monlam Tshokchen visited Buddhist pilgrimage place in India from November 11, 1999 to January 4, 2000 for producing a comprehensive Dzongha Guide Book for the use of large number of Bhutanese pilgrims visiting various Buddhist pilgrimage places. The members of the delegation were as under :-

1. His Eminence Ven Thuksey Rimpochhe

2. Ven Lam (Geshey) Pema Tsewang

3. Lama Dhondup Tarchen

4. Mr. Kunzang Tobgyel

5. Lopon Tengye 6. Lopon Kunzang Thinley

7 Lopon Nado

8. Mr. Jamyang Lhendup

9. Aum Chimi 10. Dasho Ugyen Namgyel

Visits from India

1. A 25-member Music and Dance Group led by Ms. Ila Arun visited Bhutan from August 12-19, 1999 in connection with India`s Independence Day Celebrations and to coincide with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Coronation of His Majesty the King of Bhutan. The troupe gave three performances. A private performance at India House on August 13 for a carefully invited audience of 250 members including their Majesties the Queens and other members of the Royal Family. A public performance on August 15 at the swimming pool complex in Thimphu and a performance at Haa for about 1000 personnel of India Military Training Team (IMTRAT) on August 17.

Bangladesh

Visits from Bangladesh

1. A 32-member dance and music troupe [May 1999]

2. Visit of Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Former Chief Justice [November 1999]

3. Visit of Mr. A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan, Chairman, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Dhaka [December 1999]

Visits from India

1. A 5-member group led by Ranjaboti Sarkar [February 1999]

2. A 30-member group led by Ratan Thiyam, Padma Tawalkar (Vocal), Sangeeta Das (Odissi) [March 1999]

3. Pt. Vinayak Torvi (vocal), Ustad Shahid Pervez (Vitar), Ashwini Bhide Despande (Vocal) [October 1999]

4. Sanskrit Theatre group K.S. Hegde, Sanskrit Theatre group K.N. Phanikkar [November 1999]

5. Koodiyattam by Kerala Malamandalam, Yasoda S. Rao (Kuchipudi) [December 1999]

Myanmar

Visits from Myanmar

1. Myanmar Ramayana Performing Arts Groupe [April 28 - May 5, 1999]

Visits from India

1. Odissi dance troupe of Smt. Aloka Kanungo [January 1999]

2. A 9-member Rajasthani folk, dance and music troupe [April-May, 1999]

3. A 5-member Bharatanatyam dance troupe [August 1999]

4. Two Urdu poets to present a Shairi/Ghazal performance [December 1999]

5. A Sanskrit scholar for a seven-day visit from December 16, 1999.